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FARM AND HOME HOUR

ADVERTISER

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS - #408 WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE

WMAQ-BLUE

OK

11:30-12:30 PM

OCTOBER 18, 1940

FRIDAY

CHICAGO OUTLET

(TIME) (DATE) (DAY)

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

2. MUSIC: Ranger Song

3. ANNOUNCER: When the vast grassland plains west of the Mississippi were
4. opened to settlement, thousands of families migrated
5. westward and established themselves on dryland farms. In some areas
6. successful farming communities grew up, but in other areas the results
7. were tragic. For a few years the lands produced rich harvests, but the
8. final results of breaking the sod and attempting to convert these natural
9. grasslands into grainlands are now well known to all of us. Lands once
10. productive of fine crops of wild grass supporting huge herds of buffalo
11. were reduced to lifeless deserts. And stories of the heartbreaking
12. experiences of destitute and homeless families forced to migrate from the
13. wasted lands to other sections of the country are still fresh in our
14. minds. Unfortunately however, these devastated grasslands are only one
15. dramatic instance of blighted human hopes and fortunes due to misused
16. lands. The United States Forest Service calls attention to a parallel of
17. even wider scope on our cut-over forest lands. Though less publicized,
18. the Forest Service tells us that the plight of families living on cut-over
19. forest lands in the South, the Appalachians, the Lake States, and other
20. forest areas throughout the country is just as serious and in some cases
21. even more serious than the plight of families in the Dust Bowl. Attempts
22. of these people to eke out an agricultural existence on lands suitable
23. only for the growing of trees has resulted in conditions of both the lands
24. and the people growing progressively worse and worse.

ANNOUNCER: (Cont.) Stranded and unable to improve their conditions themselves and readjustment and rehabilitation of submarginal land dwellers in out-over forest areas is one of the most important problems with which counties, States and federal agencies have to cope.

Well, now let's get out to the little forest town of Winding Creek, for our weekly visit with Ranger Jim Robbins of the Pine Cone National Forest, and his wife Bess, and Jerry Quick the assistant ranger. Right now we're going to look in on Jerry's sweetheart, Mary Halloway, the Winding Creek school teacher. Here's Mary in the classroom, just as school is letting out.....

MONTAGE OF CHILDREN'S VOICES -- SCHOOL LETTING OUT -- BACK

MARY: (FADING IN - CALLS) Judy -- Judy Brown.

JUDY: Yes, Miss Halloway?

MARY: Will you come up here to the desk a minute?

JUDY: (ABOUT 8 or 9) Mr. Waters told me to hurry as soon as school was out, Miss Halloway.

MARY: Mr. Waters? You mean the man who drives the school bus?

JUDY: Yes maam. Mr. Waters doesn't like it when I keep him waiting... 'specially when the roads are bad.

MARY: Well Judy, what I wanted to speak to you about... I've noticed your feet have been soaking wet every morning. Don't you know you'll catch a cold if you go wading in puddles like that? A big girl like you should know better than.....

11. JUDY: I don't wade in puddles on purpose, Miss Halloway. It's
 2. when I walk down to the bridge to meet Mr. Waters that my
 3. feet get wet. Everything's wet in the morning -- the road
 4. and the grass and everything -- and there's no place else
 5. to walk.

6. MARY: But I thought Mr. Waters was supposed to pick you up at your
 7. gate every morning.

8. JUDY: Yes maam, he was supposed to come clear up to the ranch
 9. before the bridge got too bad to drive his car across. But
 10. not I have to walk. I walk two miles down to the bridge
 11. and meet him in the morning and he let's me off at the bridge
 12. at night. Sometimes it's wet both ways.

13. MARY: Well, you should wear your rubbers or some overshoes then,
 14. Judy.

15. JUDY: yes maam. Daddy's been going to buy me some new shoes and
 16. rubbers, but he ... he ... so far I guess he hasn't had the
 17. money.

18. MARY: Hasn't got

19. SOUND OF CAR HORN HONKING IMPATIENTLY, OFF

20. JUDY: That's Mr. Waters now, Miss Halloway. I've got to run.
 21. When he honks like that I know he's awful mad. The roads
 22. are awful muddy now and....

23. MARY: Just a minute, Judy. I'll speak to Mr. Waters. I'm going
 24. to take you down town and get you some overshoes and rubbers...

25. JUDY: What?

MARY: I say I'm going to buy you some rubbers....(SOUND OF CHILD RUNNING OFF) Judy! Judy! Come back here! Wait a minute!

JUDY: (OFF SOBBING) No maam. D.,D.,..daddy says we can't take charity....I've got to go now.

SOUND OF DOOR SLAMMING

MARY: (FADING) Judy!

MUSIC UP AND OUT

LIGHT KNOCK ON DOOR

BESS: (OFF) Who is it?

SOUND OF DOOR OPENING

MARY: (COMING ON) It's just me, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Come in Mary. I'm glad you stopped in to see me. Sit down and I'll get some coffee and a piece of pumpkin pie.

MARY: Oh thanks, Mrs. Robbins, but I don't think I'd better eat any pie. I've been gaining....

BESS: Oh lush, Mary. A piece of pie won't hurt you. Let me take that wet umbrella, and sit down and make yourself comfortable.

MARY: Isn't this sloppy weather?

BESS: I should say so. I can't understand Jim and Jerry. They started right out in the rain this morning to cruise some timber and I expected them to be back before dinner. But they haven't come in yet.

MARY: They'll be soaked to the skin.

1. BESS: Yes and this weather's so bad for colds and pneumonia.
2. I told Jim he should be more careful, but the weather
3. doesn't seem to make any difference to him. And Jerry's
4. just like him. (CLINK OF CHINA) Here's some coffee, Mary.
5. I had it right handy here good and hot because sometimes
6. I like a cup this time of the afternoon myself. And here's
7. a little piece of pie to go with it.

8. MARY: Oh Mrs. Robbins, that isn't a little piece at all. It's
9. tremendous. You know Jerry won't like me if I get....

10. BESS: Now never mind Jerry, Mary. You just eat it.

11. MARY: U-m-m, it's delicious. But it doesn't seem right for me to
12. be sitting here and little Judy walking those two miles
13. home through the wet woods in all this downpour.

14. BESS: Judy? Judy who, Mary?

15. MARY: Oh it's little Judy Brown, Mrs. Robbins (FADING) She's been
16. coming to school with her feet soaking wet every morning
17. for the past two weeks...

18. SLIGHT PAUSE

19. MARY: (FADING IN) But that's it, Mrs. Robbins. The Browns are
20. just like all the rest of these people who have lived here
21. for any length of time. They're too proud to accept any
22. outside help even when they're almost destitute. I'm sure
23. I don't know what to do.

24. BESS: It's bad enough for grownups to have to suffer, but these
25. little children. I'll tell you, Mary, you stay for supper
and we'll talk it over with Jim.

1. MARY: Do you think Mr. Robbins could do something?

2. BESS: (FADING) Well I don't know, Mary, but you know Jim.

3. MUSIC UP AND OUT

4. JERRY: (FADING IN) Ah boy, it's sure a great feeling to come in
5. out of the wet brush and get some dry clothes on and a good
6. supper under your belt, and sit down here in front of a
7. nice warm fire. U-m-m.

8. MARY: Yes, but just think of all the people like the Brown's
9. that can't do that, Jerry. Sometimes it makes you wonder,

10. JERRY: Uh huh. But what're you gonna do about it, Mary?

11. BESS: Well, I certainly think something ought to be done for
12. that little girl. Just imagine having to walk four miles
13. every day through all this wet and rain without any overshoes.
14. Why can't the county fix up that old bridge to the Brown
15. place, Jim, so the school bus can drive over it?

16. JIM: The county can't do it, Bess, because the county hasn't
17. got the money. And they haven't got money enough to
18. maintain the road either. You see, the Brown place is
19. the only place left back in there and the Browns are
20. the only ones that use the road or the bridge either. With
21. all the other more heavily used roads to maintain, the
22. county hasn't got money enough to go around.

23. JERRY: Yeah Jim, but if the county's got enough money to hire
24. somebody to drive in there and bring that little kid to
25. school they ought to have money enough to keep the road up
so he could drive over it.

1. JIM: But you see, Jerry, the county doesn't pay the driver.
 2. That money comes out of the State fund. If we had to
 3. depend on county funds to get the kids from the country
 4. to school in some of these outover areas the kids just
 5. wouldn't get to school at all. And if people'd just stop
 6. and think about it they'd see that something needs to be
 7. done.
 8. JERRY: Yeah. But what're yuh gonna do with these settlers like
 9. Mr. Brown -- move 'em out to some other part of the country?
 10. Where are they gonna go? Goodnight Jim, everybody admits
 11. something needs to be done but the question is what to do.
 12. JIM: U-m-m- By George, I just thought of something.
 13. MARY: What is it, Mr. Robbins?
 14. JIM: I dunno yet. I want to go in the office here a minute and
 15. look at the map. (SOUND OF JIM GETTING UP AND GOING OUT)
 16. JERRY: Trust Jim to think of something.
 17. BEES: Well, I certainly hope something can be done for that
 18. little girl..
 19. MARY: So do I, Mrs. Robbins. Judy's an awful cute little
 20. thing and just as bright as she can be. It doesn't seem
 21. right.....

1. JERRY: No but I'll tell you Mary, this business goes deeper than
2. just what happens to the people. It's what happens to the
3. land that's back of it all. All that land's good for is
4. growing trees and that's what it ought to be used for. Some
5. of it's been cleared and burned over and plowed and eroded so
6. much now it'd be a hard job even to get a decent stand of
7. trees on it again.

8. BESS: Yes Jerry, but you know if our foresight was as good as
9. our hindsight we'd do a lot of things differently. I can
10. remember when the Browns came in here and ever/body thought
11. they were getting one of the best farms around here.

12. JIM: (COMING ON) What do you say, Jerry... wanta go back out
13. in the drizzle and drive down to see the county commissioner
14. with me?

15. JERRY: What? You wanta go back out tonight to make a trip down to
16. see that crotchety old Jake Jenkins? Boy, you're a dog for
17. punishment. What d'yuh want to see the county commissioner
18. for?

19. JIM: (CHUCKLES) You don't have to go unless you want to, Jerry.
20. It's just an idea, and I thought maybe you'd like to go
21. along and see how it pans out.

22. JERRY: Well, sure. I'm game to go but if you're figurin' on
23. doin' any business with Jake Jenkins....

24. MARY: What are you going to do, Mr. Robbins? Have you
25. thought to some way to help Judy Brown?

1. BESS: Yes, Jim, tell us what you're planning to do.

2. JIM: I'll tell you later, Bess. The way it sets now this whole

3. plan's just a shot in the dark... You ready, Jerry?

4. JERRY: (FADING) Yeah. Come on. Let's go.

5. SLIGHT PAUSE

6. SOUND OF CAR IN MOTION BACK

7. JERRY: (FADING IN) Naw Jim, Jake won't fall for that idea at all.

8. You know how he feels about the government taking over this

9. county land. He's opposed to extending the national forest...

10. JIM: But we're not going to acquire more land, Jerry. All we

11. want to do is to negotiate an exchange...make a swap.

12. JERRY: Well, it won't make any difference -- acquisition and

13. exchange are all the same to Jake. And besides, Jim...

14. JIM: Well here we are. Pull up there (FADING) in front of the

15. and we'll go in and.....

16. SLIGHT PAUSE

17. JAKE: (ABOUT 60 -- SUSPICIOUS) yessir Jim, I been expectin' this..

18. I been expectin' you fellers to come around here wantin'

19. to grab off that Brown place. You want to take all the

20. land in the county out of taxation. I know yuh.

21. JIM: No Jake. The Forest Service isn't trying to take any land

22. out of taxation. But now that you mention it -- how are the

23. taxes on that place? That's one thing I wanted to find out

24. especially. Has Bill Brown.....

1. JIM: Uh huh. Well Jake, look here. (SOUND OF MAP RATTLING)
2. Take a look at this map here. See this piece of national
3. forest land down here in the lower end of Willow Creek?
4. Well, that's good agricultural soil and it's level so it
5. won't wash. Besides that, it's right on a good all-weather
6. road and a lot closer to town. A man could farm that piece
7. and make out pretty well if he was a worker like Bill
8. Brown, and it'd pay the county more taxes than the piece he's
9. on now. I'll admit there's a few more acres in Brown's
10. present farm than there is in this piece, but Jake, that
11. land is plain worn out. Bill Brown's got all he's ever gonna
12. get out of it, and if he stays there all he'll do is go deeper
13. and deeper into the hole. You know that as well as I do.
14. JAKE: H-m-m-. That is right likely spot, all right, I've looked
15. at that patch there on Willow Creek a couple times myself.
16. JIM: And here's another thing, Jake. Brown's place is the only
17. piece of private land left up there where he is. There's
18. national forest land all around him and it'd help us a lot
19. if we could include that land too. Mixed ownership like that
20. makes forest protection and management a lot harder and more
21. expensive. And this other piece down here is right on the
22. forest boundary next to all the ranches in Willow Creek
23. valley.
24.
25.

1. JAKE: H-m-m. Does seem like a waste of money to have to keep
 2. up that road and that bridge way up there for just one
 3. family. And I reckon if Billy moved down here his little
 4. girl could get to school on the regular school bus, too...
 5. But Billy's got his house, and all his improvements. They're
 6. kinda run down now, but....

7. JIM: I know it's not going to be easy to get Bill Brown to pull
 8. out from up there and start over again down here below,
 9. but that's my worry, Jake. All I want is an okay on this
 10. plan from you before I go ahead with it.

11. JAKE: Jim, I wouldn't want to go along with you fellers too far,
 12. but this looks like a good deal...I'll tell you...(FADING)
 13. if you can get Billy Brown to agree to trade land I reckon
 14. me and the rest of the county commissioners wouldn't object
 15. to the move.....

16. PAUSE

17. FADE IN SOUND OF MOTOR BACK

18. JIM: Well, that was easier than I thought it would be, Jerry.

19. JERRY: Yeah, you've got an OK from the county, but how about Bill
 20. Brown? He's the one that's gotta make the trade, and you'll
 21. have a hard time getting him to pull up stakes and start
 22. over. You know he'll wanta stick to the place where he's
 23. worked all these years.

24. JIM: I know, Jerry. It's going to be a hard job. But we've made
 25. a good start, and we'll keep on trying...I'm thinking of
 that little girl of his....Judy.....

1, MUSIC: FINALE

2, ANNOUNCER: Today's story, telling about one of the ways in which
3, the Forest Service is endeavoring to help stranded families
4, and work out needed readjustments in the cut-over areas,
5, will be continued next Friday.....

6, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday
7, on the National Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of
8, the National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of
9, the United States Forest Service.

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